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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,486	11/15/2001	Kojiro Katayama	35.C15946	7223

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NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

WANG, LIANG CHE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,486

Applicant(s)

KATAYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Liang-che Alex Wang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-9, 11-19, 21-29 and 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 20, 30 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 10, 20, 30, 32 are presented for examination.
2. Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-29, 31 are withdrawn without traverse based on the response to restriction/election filed on 3/08/2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 10, 20, 30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors. For example, claim 10, lines 17-22, "in response, after an instruction for delivery ... received by said reception means and said information received by said reception means and said information for specifying the user", is unclear and not understood by the examiner to determine the scope of the claim. The examiner interprets the claimed invention as "A information processing apparatus comprising: reception means for receiving inventory absence information which indicates the inventory number of expendable of a predetermined type used in a peripheral device is less than a predetermined number and informing means for informing an alarm to a communication address assign to a person in charge of distribution in response to

reception of information indicating a decrease or absence of the inventory of said expendable of said predetermined type by said reception means.” for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 10, 20, 30 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al., US Patent Number 5,880,965.
8. Referring to claim 10, Nakamura has taught an information processing apparatus (see figure 1) comprising:
- a. reception means for receiving inventory absence information (Col 15 lines 26-29, machining schedule 13 is receiving update data input, Col 15 lines 11-16, input are inventory related information and wherein the information could be the quantity of a specific item which corresponds to inventory absence information) indicating that the inventory number of expendable of a predetermined type used in a peripheral device (figure 4, machining schedule contains machining program which corresponds to the predetermined type used, and the quantity associated with it corresponds to the inventory number) is less than a predetermined number (Col 16 lines 14-15, the system determines if the inventory has a sufficient

number of work piece), together with information for specifying the user (Col 15 lines 11-16, an operator must be identified in order to be notified);

- b. informing means for informing an alarm to a communication address assigned to a person in charge of distribution (Col 15 lines 11-13, operator), in response, after an instruction for delivery according to the information on the expendable of predetermined type included in the inventory absence information received by said reception means and said information for specifying the user (Col 15 lines 26-29, lines 11-16), to reception of information indicating a decrease or absence of the inventory of said expendable of said predetermined type of said reception means (Col 16 lines 9-24.)

- 9. Referring to claims 20, 30, 32, claims 20, 30, 32 encompass the same scope of the invention as that of the claim 10. Therefore, claims 20, 30, 32 are rejected for the same reason as the claim 10

Conclusion

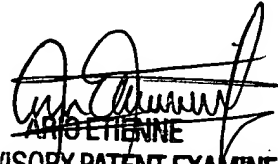
- 10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims, the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and the objection made. Applicant must show how the amendments avoid such references and objections. See 37 CFR 1.111(c).
- 11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liang-che Alex Wang whose telephone number is

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(571)272-3992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571)272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Liang-che Alex Wang *Lu*
May 2, 2005


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100